GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2089
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
PROTECTION OF E & F IN HARAYANA
TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether destruction of Aravali hilly forest area is continuing and illegal pumping of ground water is going on in ridge area of Haryana despite Hon`ble Supreme Court`s orders in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether mining and other activities in the periphery of five kilometre from Delhi-Haryana border is taking place particularly in Surajkund and Barkhal Lake area by way of levelling the land by blasting with gunpowder despite ban;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same and implement the Hon`ble court`s orders in letter and spirit?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T .R. BAALU)

(a) to (e). State Government has banned mining activities and pumping of water on Haryana side of ridge falling within five kilometers of Delhi-Haryana border in compliance with Supreme Court`s order dated 6.5.2002 in Civil Writ Petition no.4677/85 in IA no.1785. However, as per the reports dated 9th August 2002 and 21st October 2002 prepared by Environment Pollution (prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region, in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4677 of 1985; M.C. Mehta V/S Union of India and others, in areas adjoining Surajkund and Badkal Lake certain activities including mining have been done which are not in conformity with the orders of the Supreme Court. No specific information about illegal pumping of ground water is available with the Ministry of Environment and Forest. The State Government is concerned about the ecology of the area and is taking measures for the restoration of the entire Aravali hills within the State of Haryana. Plantation work in the green belt around Surajkund and Barhkal area was done in 1996-97 and 1997-98. This has yielded significant results. The State of Forest Report 1999 published by the Forest Survey of India has indicated that the total green coyer in Haryana has increased by 360 sq.km as compared to the report of 1997 assessment. By its order dated 25.11.2002, Supreme Court has directed the State Government officials concerned to ensure compliance of the orders.